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THE WHITMORES

OF LUDSON, CO. SALOP

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THE WHITMORES OF LUDSON, CO. SALOP.

Communicated by WILLIAM H. WHITMORE.

In past years I have had the advantage of having genealogical searches made for me in England by the late H. G. Somerby and the late Col. Joseph L. Chester, both acknowledged authorities. To the pages of the "Herald and Genealogist," I contributed a portion of the results in the following articles:—An account of the Whitmores of Staffordshire and Cheshire (iv, 20); Note on the effigy of Sir John W. (iv, 340); On a line of the family at Madely, Staff. (iv, 398); A note on Gen. Edward Whitmore (v, 681); on Penelope Wells (v, 683); on the Fairfax family (vii, 161); On the Whitmores of the Haywood, co. Hereford (vii, 364 and viii, 176); On the Whitmores of Caunton, co. Notts (vi, 523); and on the Roos family (vii, 535).

In these notes I refrained from repeating information easily accessible, from Burke's publications or similar sources, especially in the case of the family of Whitmore settled in Shropshire for the last two centuries. I had, however, obtained some special information in regard to collateral branches, and a recent curious accident has recalled these facts to mind. A friend recently bought a number of old deeds and similar papers, sent to this country as waste-paper stock, and among them he found an indenture of Thomas Whitmore, of Ludson, co. Salop, dated 1730, which clearly showed the date of the extinction of the name in that locality. As I had notes on the previous generations, this remarkable preservation of the deed and its fortuitous guidance to my hands, seem a good reason for placing the whole history before the readers of the "Genealogist."

The Visitation of Shropshire in 1663 (according to an extract certified by H. Murray Lane, Esq., *Bluemantle*) records that Richard[1] Whitmore of Claverley, had sons Thomas[2] and *Richard*.[2] This latter name is a mistake for William,[2] a merchant of London, father of Sir William[3] and Sir George,[3] Lord Mayor.

Thomas[2] Whitmore is recorded as having a son John[3] of Ludson, father of Thomas,[4] William[4] and John[4] and three daughters. The third son, John[4] had a son John,[5] aged 22, 14 Aug., 1663, Thomas,[5] William[5] and George[5] and four daughters. Here the information supplied by the Visitation ends.

At my request, however, Col. Chester copied all the Whitmore entries

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from the records at Claverley, from 1568 down to 1800, and the Rev. George Whitmore, Rector of Stockton, in 1872, kindly sent me all similar entries on his records from 1607 to 1820. From these sources and others duly cited, I have prepared a more complete pedigree, beginning with Richard[1] Whitmore of Claverly, who died in 1549 and was father of Thomas[2] Whitmore, younger brother of William[2] of London, who had probably two wives, one of them being termed in the Visitation, "—— Bowdlear."

By his wife, ——, he had baptized at Claverley, co. Salop, i ——[3], 18 Mch., 1568-9; buried prob. as Joan, 27 Oct., 1600.

His wife Jane was buried there 19 Aug., 1571. He had baptized afterwards there, of course by a second wife,

ii John,[3] 26 Oct., 1572.
iii William,[3] 26 Jany., 1575-6; bu. 21 Feb., 1576-7.
iv Joyce,[3] 14 Apr., 1577.

Thomas[2] Whitmore was buried at Claverley, 17 Jany., 1577-8, and July 23, 1580, Dynes (Dionis?) Whitmore, *widow*, was buried: presumably his second wife.

Third Generation.

His only son John[3] Whitmore, termed of Ludson in Claverley, married (according to the Visitation of 1663) Frances, dau. of Will. Billingsley of Astley, co. Salop. John had baptized at Claverley:

i Thomas,[4] 12 Feb., 1598-9.
ii Elizabeth,[4] 1 Jany., 1599—1600; bu. 26 Jany. in the same year.
iii Jane,[4] 14 June, 1602; m. William Warham at C., 12 June, 1627.
iv William,[4] 4 Sept., 1603.
v Elizabeth,[4] 8 Dec., 1605; m. Wm. Duckett, of Gray's Inn (Visit.)
vi Frances,[4] 15 Nov., 1607.
vii Joan,[4] 5 May, 1609.
viii John,[4] 25 Aug., 1611.
ix Mary,[4] 27 Mch., 1614; m. John Gop of Varfield, co. Worc. (Visit.)
x Anne,[4] 15 Apr., 1624; m. Thomas Atkinson of Stanton-Lacy (Visit.)

At Claverley were buried, 20 June 1649, John Whitmore, gent., and 3 Feb., 1668-9, Mrs. Frances Whitmore; evidently the parents of these children.

The three sons all lived to be of age; Thomas was of Claverley and a Bencher of the Middle Temple, London; William was probably a draper of London, and afterwards of Shipley, co. Salop; John, D.D., was Rector of Stockton.

Fourth Generation.

Thomas[4] Whitmore, eldest son, married (according to the Visitation,) Anne, dau. of Thomas Corbet of Longmore, co. Salop. He matriculated at Wadham Coll., Oxford, in 1615-16, aged 18. He is mentioned in the wills of his relatives Sir George Whitmore, Dame Mary W., his wife, William W., his son, and Sir Thomas W., his nephew. This Thomas Whitmore was evidently the agent and manager for his wealthy cousins. His will shows that he had no issue :—

(Hale, 68.) Will of Thomas Whitmore of Ludston, co Salop, Esq. dated 7 Dec 1676, proved in P.P.C. 22 June 1677, "to poor of parish of Claverly where I was born £5 yearly for ever. To my wife I give my nephew John W. to be a son. Neice Anne Fletcher and John Gopp her brother. Neice Mrs. Margaret W. wife of John Whitmore. Thomas Janns of Albrighton. Nephew William Whitmore, his brother George W. and sister Mary W. Rings to Sir William Whitmore, bart. Sir Thomas Whitmore, K.B., Wm. Whitmore, Esq, Sarah Whitmore, widow, Mrs. Anne Powney, my sister, Elizabeth Duckett, Rose Turton, widow, Edward Finckes, nephews John Gopp and Wm. Warham. Thomas Janns dec[d]. father of before mentioned Thomas J. and John Farrington half brother of Thomas J. The six children of John Farrington of Ranton co Staff. gent. which he had by my late neice Elizabeth. Mary Etheridge and George E. her son, to have money left in my hands for the children of John Gopp dec[d].

At Claverley were buried, 16 May, 1677, Thomas Whitmore, Esq. ; and 19 Dec., 1678, Mrs. Anne Whitmore, widow of Thomas Whitmore, Esq., late of Ludstone.

William[4] Whitmore is termed of Shipley in the Visitation, but he is undoubtedly the person called by Sir George Whitmore in his will, "my cousin William Whitmore, the Draper." He is also mentioned in Dame Mary W.'s will. He probably died in 1668 unmarried as his will indicates. The following is an abstract of it :—

(Hene 149) Will of William Whitmore of Shipley co Salop, Gent, dated 26 Dec 1667, proved in P.C.C. 25 Nov 1668. Nephew John Whitmore son of my dec[d]. brother Dr. Whitmore. Sister Jane Wareham. Neice Anne Warham. Cousin John Farrington, and Elizabeth his wife, and Thomas Janns her son. Nephew Wm. Warham. Sister Mary Gopp and her five daus. Elizabeth, Ursula, Mary, Frances, and Sarah, and sons John Ichabod, and James Goff. Neice Anne Fletcher and her children. Sister-in-law Mrs. Atkinson. Nephews John and Francis Atkinson, neice Anne Atkinson. Mother Frances Whitmore. Sister Duckett. Brother Thomas Whitmore ; sister Anne W. his wife, and her neice Rose Turton—various other bequests. Also to my kindred now living in Bridgnorth viz, John, William, Thomas and Launcelot Cheese and their sister. To my godson William Whitmore, one of the sons of my dec[d]. brother Dr Whitmore my capital messuage &c in Shipley and also an ancient marlery, now a fish pond or pool, in Heathton, called Heathton Pool ; remainder to his heirs male, remainder to my right heirs. Sister Jane Warham, nephew Wm. Warham. Residue to my nephew William Whitmore now about 10 years old.

The Rev. John[4] Whitmore, D.D. matriculated at Wadham Coll. Oxford, 30 Oct., 1620, aged 16, as the son of John W. pleb. of Ludstone, co. Salop. He is noted in Wood's *Fasti ii*, col. 259, "1661, Oct. 17, John Whitmore of Wadham Coll." among Doctors of Divinity. He became Rector of Stockton, co. Salop, in 1662, and, according to the Visitation, he married Anne, dau. of Thomas Martin of Wilcot co. Oxford. The same authority gives them the following children :—

i John[5] aged 23, Aug. 14, 1663.
ii Thomas[5] ; bu. at Stockton 3 Mch. 1666.
iii William[5] ; heir to his uncle Thomas W. in 1677.
iv George.[5]
v Elizabeth.[5]
vi Frances.[5]
vii Anne.[5]
viii Mary.[5]

The Rev. John Whitmore was buried at Stockton 10 July, 1666.

Fifth Generation.

John[5] Whitmore of Ludstone, eldest son of Rev. John,[4] seems to have married first, Margaret —— who probably died s.p. She was buried 17 Sept. 1682, at Claverley. He married at Claverley 9 Apr. 1683, Sarah Acton, and I find by Kimber and Johnston's *Baronetage*, 1771, vol. i, p. 513, that she was the daughter of Thomas Acton of Gataere Park, co. Salop. Their children were baptised at Claverley as follows :—

i Frances,[6] 25 Feb. 1683-4 (? m. Thomas Perrot 29 Oct. 1702.*)
ii William,[6] 27 Oct. 1685 ; d. 4 Jany. 1700.*
iii Sarah,[6] 24 Oct. 1686 ; (? m. Rev. John Wall July 1 1725.*
iv Elizabeth,[6] 19 Jany. 1687-8 ; (? m. Edward Gelligo, Oct. 29, 1722.*)
v Anne,[6] 28 Apr. 1689 ; (? m. Hattam Windle, May 12, 1712.*)
vi Dorothy,[6] 8 May 1690.
vii Katherine,[6] 24 May 1691 ; bu. at Claverley 19 May 1760 ?*
viii Mabel,[6] 29 May1692
ix Thomas,[6] 2 Feb. 1693-4.
x John,[6] 10 May 1696.
xi Mary,[6] 13 Mch. 1697-8.
xii Henrietta,[6] 10 Sept. 1699 ; bu. at Claverley 14 Nov. 1752 ?*
xiii George,[6] 14 Feb. 1700-1.
xiv Richard,[6] 7 Feb. 1702-3 ; bu. at C. 4 Apr. 1727.*
xv Jane,[6] 18 May 1707.

John Whitmore, Esq., was buried at Claverley 5 Nov. 1715, and 21 June 1752 Mrs. Sarah Whitmore, widow. For good reasons, I think this was John's widow, though she must have attained a great age.

At Claverly were also buried George Whitmore, 4 May 1699 and William Whitmore, Gent., 11 Oct. 1760, whom I presume to be the brothers of this John[5] Whitmore. There was also a Mrs. Sarah W., widow, buried there April 13, 1700, whom I cannot identify. From Add. MSS., Brit. Mus., 21, 237, I learn that there are or were inscriptions at Claverley as follows :—

"Thomas Whitmore of Ludstone, Esq, ob. 26 May, 1677 aged 8-."
"John Whitmore of Ludstone, Esq, ob Nov. 2, 1715, aged 76."
"Margaret, ux. John Whitmore of Ludstone, Esq, ob. Sept. 17, 1682."
"Richard Whitmore, youngest son of John Whitmore, Esq, ob. March 31, 1727 aged 24."

* These four marriages and four burials are on the Claverley records, but do not specify the parent's name. There can be little doubt that they belong here.

I hope later on to show the probable line of descent from two of John[5] Whitmore's sons, John and George, but will now deal with his eldest surviving son Thomas,[6] born 2 Feb., 1693-4. In the matriculations of Balliol Coll. Oxon. occurs "10 Feb., 1710-11, Thomas Whitmore, aged 16, son of *Thomas* Whitmore of Ludson, co. Salop, Gent." This is clearly an error, for Thomas son of *John*, as there was no Thomas Whitmore, of Ludson at that date and the age agrees exactly with the son of John.[5]

The old indenture which has come into my hands is dated June 1, 1730, and is a lease and release, by which I understand a total sale is effected. It is from Thomas Whitmore of Ludson, co. Salop, Esquire, to John Broadfield of Bridgnorth, co. Salop, Gent., and disposes of a considerable quantity of land.

I presume that this closed the connection of the Whitmores with Ludson, and I should be glad to know more of this Thomas[6] Whitmore.

The next item copied by Col. Chester from these matriculations reads, "Balliol College, Jany. 14, 1713-14, John Whitmore, aged 17, son of John Whitmore of *Letster*, co. Staff., Gent." This I confidently claim as a mistake on the register, because there is no such place as "Letster" in Staffordshire, or any where else, and no John Whitmore in the gentry of Staff. yet discovered by my extended search. Moreover, in 1746, another John[7] Whitmore, son of George, is recorded at Balliol, and I shall prove him to have been a grandson of John,[5] nephew of Thomas.[6] Every probability points to the fact that John[6] of Balliol was also the brother of Thomas,[6] and not a namesake coming from an unknown stock and residence. And this is strengthened by the fact that in 1750, Edward, son of the John of 1714, was also of Balliol.

We may assume therefore, that the student of 1714 is John[6] Whitmore, the tenth child of John of Ludson. I find certainly that he was a clergyman, settled at Fenny Compton, co. Warwick, that he had a son Edward[7] of Balliol, Oct. 10, 1750, aged 17, and two daughters. Edward[7] was of Upton-upon-Severn, and died *s.p.*, May 1, 1816, aged 83. His sister Elizabeth[7] Whitmore, married Edmund Lechmere, M.P., of Severn End, and had issue Sir Anthony Lechmere, Bart., whose descendants enjoy the title.

Col. Chester also was able to supply some facts in regard to the descendants of George[6] Whitmore, the thirteenth child of John[5] Whitmore of Ludson. The matriculation reads, "Balliol College, 1745-6, March 19, John(7) Whitmore, aged 17, son of George(6) Whitmore of St. Bartholomew, London, Gent." This John[7] Whitmore, died April 8, 1795, aged 68, and was buried at Creeting-all-Saints, Suffolk. He had a son Thomas,[8] born Nov. 25, 1776, who was the father of Charles Horatio[9] Whitmore of Ipswich, born in 1809.

The identification is made certain by a record contained in a Prayer Book in the possession of the family. For special reasons, I annex this record as relating to the Acton family. But it will be seen that it contains the names, births and baptisms of all of the fifteen children of John[5] Whitmore of Ludson, though not mentioning the place; and in fact, I think the descendants had lost the recollection of the locality. Hence, I cannot doubt that this record

was transmitted in the line of George,[6] the thirteenth child of John,[5] and that this completes the family record. It is not improbable that the size of the family with which John[5] was blessed, led to their dispersion and to the sale of the family estates by the eldest son Thomas, when he was only 36 years old.

The following is from a Prayer Book printed in 1670, formerly belonging to a Margaret Whitmore; the book was in 1861, in the possession of Mrs. Moore of Badley, co. Suffolk.

"Jo. Whitmore and Sarah his wife were marryed the 9th day of Aprill, 1683.

"And ffrances their daughter was borne the fourteenth day of ffebruary aboute seaven of the clock att night, 1683, and was baptized the five and twentieth.

"And William their sonne was borne the seventeenth day of October 1685 aboute a quarter before six of the clock att night and was baptized the seaven and twentieth.

"And Sarah theire daughter was borne the twentyeth day of October 1686, between nine and ten of the clock and baptized the Sabbath [follow]ing.

"And Elizabeth their daughter was borne the fourteenth day of January [1687-8.]

"And Anne their daughter was borne upon the sixth day of Aprill about 11 of the clock in the morning and was baptized the 28th, 1689.

"And Dorothy theire daughter was borne upon the sixth day of May about seaven in the evening and was baptized the 9th of May 1690.

"And Katherine their daughter was borne upon Wednesday (about six in the morning) the twentyeth day of May 1691 and was baptized the 24th of May.

"And Mabell their daughter was borne the second of May and was baptized the nine and twentieth, 1692.

"And Thomas their son was borne [torn] day of January about two of the clock 1693 and was [baptized the 2d of] February.

"And John their sonne was borne the last day of Aprill 1696 and was baptized the 14th May.

"And Mary their daughter was borne the eight day of March being Good [Friday] 1697-8, and was baptized the thirteenth of the same.

"And Henrietta theire daughter was borne the ffirst of September 1699 and was baptized the 9th day following And George theire son was borne the thirteenth day of ffebruary by ffive of the clock in the morning 1700 and was baptized on the morrow.

"And Richard theire son was borne the twenty seventh day of January Anno Dmi 1702 by one of the clock in the afternoon and was baptized the [seventh] of ffebruary.

"And Jane theire daughter was borne the eight day of May 1707, and was baptized the seaventeenth of ye same month."

In the same handwriting are the following notes:

"Mr. Clement Acton's birth day is the seaventeenth of February."

"Clement Acton and Jane his wife was married the thirtieth day of March one thousand seven hundred and fifty five, being Easter Monday."

"I came home to the Coombs upon Thursday, the twenty fourth day of April 1755."

In another hand is written :

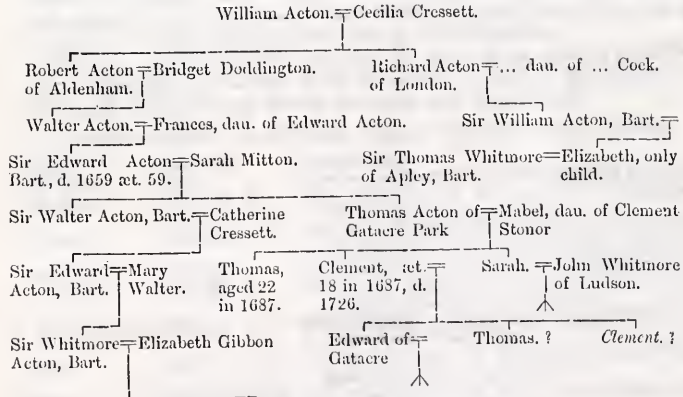
"My dear mother departed this life the twentieth of June, one thousand seven hundred and fifty two, a Saturday morning betwixt four and five o'clock."

"Clement Acton, Esqr departed this life February ye 5th 1764 and was buried ye 9th of the said month at Tasley in Shropshire."

"My dere sonn William Whitmore departed this life January the 4th day in the yere 1700."

By the kindness of Edward Farrer Acton, Esq. of Gatacre Park it has been found that this marriage of John Whitmore and Sarah Acton was at Claverley, Salop, and all the baptisms are there recorded except that of the youngest child Jane. The burial of Mrs. Sarah Whitmore widow is also recorded there. It seems certain that this record was copied and continued by one of the daughters; but who was Clement Acton and why was he so carefully mentioned? The Baronetages show that Sarah Acton who married John Whitmore had a brother Clement who died in 1726 and whose descendants possess Gatacre Park. His eldest son was Edward but he had certainly a son Thomas who died in 1741, says my informant, and may not improbably have had another son, Clement. The register at Tasley shows that Clement Acton of Halesowen was buried there 9th Feb. 1764, agreeing exactly with the Bible record. But if we accept this Clement of the record as the nephew of Mrs. Whitmore, why is he alone of her nephews recorded? I can only suppose that the Jane whom he married 30 March, 1755, was his cousin Jane Whitmore, though she was then 48 years, old, and he was probably older. This would account for his name being in a Whitmore family record. The Coombs mentioned is a locality in Halseowen, and the name is preserved in Coombs-wood and Coombs-gate.

The following pedigree shows the connection between the Actons and Whitmores.



Abstract made from the original in my possession January, 1885—*W.H.W.*

Indenture made June 1st 1730 between Thomas Whitmore of Ludson, co. Salop, Esquire and John Broadfinield of Bridgnorth co. Salop, gent. by which W sells for 5 shillings the messuage cottage &c in the tything and township of Wondall in the parish of Claverley in Salop with all appurtenances and also the pieces of arrable meadow or pasture lying near the same between the land of said Whitmore, the lands of John Astley, gent and certain common lands heretofore in four parts called by the name of Holleye Birches and now in five parts divided and called by the names of the Upper Leasow, the Middle Leasow, the *natch* (?), the piece next the House and the Vineyard;—one other parcel now in two parts called by the names of the Mill Croft alias Millne Croft adjoining to land of said Whitmore and a certain lane leading from Claverley towards Hopetone on or near all parts and sides thereof,—and all those other closes, leasows &c lying together near to a lane called Lea Birch Lane, the land heretofore of Francis Gravener, and now of Richard Taylor, gent,—and certain common land heretofore in three parts and called the Wyrralle alias the Woodalle (? torn) and now in four parts divided and called by the names of Oldbury, Greenhill Leasow, Upper Leasow, and Middle Leasow; all said cottage and lands being in the townships of Hopetone and Wondall, or one of them, in the parish of Claverley—and were lately purchased by said Thomas Whitmore of John Burnell and Mary his wife, William Yates and Mary his wife, and late were in the possession of Henry Baylie or his undertenants and now in that of said Whitmore, and all other tenements &c bought by him of said Burnell and Yates.

And also that grange formerly called Aston Abbots situate in Aston Abbotts and Hydesland alias Hysland or elsewhere within the franchise or parish of Oswaldstry alias Oswostry in Salop, late in the tenure and holding of John Richards, now in the possession of William Richards—and also that part of said farm or grange lying within the townships of Wotton, Hidesland alias Hysland and Aston, whereupon a house formerly stood called Croxens farm, also late in possession of John Richards and now of Wm Richards.

To have and to hold the same for the term of six months from the day before the date hereof, with the intent to avail of the statute, so that said Broadfild may obtain the grant and reversion &c.

MATRICULATIONS AT OXFORD. Copied by Colonel Joseph L. Chester.

Balliol	*circa* 1571	Francis Whitmore.
Wadham	1616	Thomas Whitmore, æt. 18. of Shropshire, Pleb. fil.
Wadham	1629, Oct. 30	John Whitmore, æt. 16, son of John Whitmore, Plebian, of Ludstone, co. Salop.
Trinity	1629-30, Jan. 29	Thomas Whitmore, born in London, æt. 17, eldest son of Sir Wm. Whitmore, of Apley, co. Salop.
St. John's	1639, May 3	George Whitmore, second son of a Knight, æt. 15.
St. John's	1640, May 15	Christopher Whitmore, æt. 17, third son of Sir George Whitmore, Knt., of London.
Christ Church	1698, Apl. 16	William Whitmore, æt. 16, son of Richard Whitmore, of Slater, co. Glouc., Gent.
Balliol	1710-11, Feb. 10	Thomas Whitmore, æt. 16, son of Thomas Whitmore of Ludson, co. Salop, Gent.
Balliol	1713-14, Jany. 14	John Whitmore, æt. 17, son of John Whitmore, of *Letster*, co. Stafford, Gent.

Wadham	1733-4, Jan. 22	George Whitmore, æt. 17, son of William Whitmore, of Stockton, co. Salop, Armiger.
St. John's	1741, Apl. 11	Henry Whitmore æt. 17, son of last named.
Balliol	1745-6, Mch. 19	John Whitmore, æt. 17, son of George Whitmore, of St. Bartholomew, London, Gent.
Balliol	1750, Oct. 10	Edward Whitmore, æt. 17, son of John Whitmore, Clerk, of Fenny Compton, co. Warwick.
St. John's	1756, Mch. 26	Capell Whitmore, æt. 16, son of John Whitmore, of Haywood, co. Hereford, Armiger.
St. John's	1760, July 10	John and William, each æt. 18, sons of same.
All Souls'	1767, Mch. 18	John Whitmore, æt. 20, son of German Whitmore, Plebian, of Stratford, co. Warwick.
Exeter	1769, July 11	George Whitmore, æt. 18, son of William Whitmore, Armiger, of St. Mary's, City of London.
Christ Church	1799, Oct. 23.	Thomas Whitmore, æt. 17, son of Thomas Whitmore, Armiger, of Stockton, co. Salop.
Christ Church	1805, Jan. 24	Charles Blaney Cavendish Whitmore, æt. 17, son of last named.

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